

## BREVITIES

### RAILROAD JOTTINGS.

There is a distinct movement toward uniformity in the gauge of the steam railroads in this country, for in ten years the increase has been from 81.1 per cent. of the whole to 93.3 per cent.

A very large order has been placed with the Brooks Locomotive works, of Dunkirk, N. Y., by the Great Northern road. It calls for fifty consolidation engines of sixty-four tons weight each, this class being the standard of the road.

John A. Ainge, a mechanic employed at the Dover (N. J.) shops of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, has invented and patented a new journal box for railroad cars, the value of which is that it obviates the use of waste packing and is dust proof.

The governor of Kentucky has appointed as members of the new state railroad commission Urey Woodson, editor of the Owensboro Messenger; C. C. McChord, attorney at Washington, and State Senator Charles B. Poyntz, a Maysville distiller.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew has been re-elected president of the New York Central and president of the West Shore railroad by the new boards of directors, respectively, of those corporations. All of the other executive officers in each company were also re-elected.

Probably the most novel train that ever crossed this country was one made up of twenty engines destined for Chicago for use on the new elevated railroad. It left the Baldwin works, Philadelphia, and was hauled by the master mechanics' compound engines. Photographs of the train were taken.

The Chicago and Erie will hereafter be operated as two divisions. The eastern division will include the territory from Marion Junction to Huntington, Ind. C. C. Reynolds, superintendent, will have his headquarters at Huntington. The western division will include the territory west of Huntington yard. G. A. Coe, superintendent, will have his office at Chicago.

### TO MAKE HOME ATTRACTIVE.

Openwork scrim with ribbons run through it makes a pretty strip for the center of the dinner table.

Do not put down carpets in your new house unless you are there to stay. Rather border your rooms with felt "filling" or even plain blue denim, and then meet the border with an inexpensive art square or a large rug.

A wall paper should never be dull and undecided, nor should it be startling. It should harmonize with the pictures and the hangings—in fact, with all the decorations of the room, and should, so to speak, diffuse a general tone over the whole room.

Line your trunks and big boxes with mothproof paper sold by the roll. So shall it come to pass that you will find the fur brown and soft upon your seal-skin next fall, and your flannels and heavy clothing as whole as when you put them away.

A novelty in the way of arranging photographs is to fasten a rug of dark color on the wall at the frieze. On this fasten a pair of horns and arrange your photographs with good taste thereon. Small hooks for this purpose can be bought at most any shop.

An olive dish doily is a novelty from the Boston needlework exchanges. A circle of "plums" worked in Kensington stitch with green floss is mingled with white silk olive leaves in over and over embroidery, the whole done on fine linen, which is fringed as a finish.

### WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

The Salvation Army intends to show at the exposition in a complete manner its whole scheme of moral and social reform.

A relief map showing San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, Cal., is being prepared, at an expense of \$10,000, for exhibition at the fair.

A model in miniature of Fort Sheridan, situated near Chicago and prospectively the chief United States military station, will appear in the government exhibit.

Helena, Mon., will send to the exposition a meteor, discovered near that city. It is composed of nickel and magnetic iron, and is in two pieces of ninety and seventy pounds respectively.

Italy has finally decided to take part officially in the exposition, and has entrusted the management of participation to the various chambers of commerce in the principal Italian cities.

William Saunders, executive position commissioner for Canada, says that a large and excellent exhibit from the Dominion is assured. It will be especially notable in the lines of agriculture, dairying, minerals and manufacture.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

A Philadelphian has a garden on his roof, where he grows his own vegetables.

A Presbyterian pastor at Greenville, Ill., has a pulpit made of olive wood from the Mount of Olives.

The oldest mine which is now worked as a copper mine is in the Musashi province of Japan. It was opened 1,183 years ago.

The colored race does not increase rapidly in New England. Rhode Island is the only one of the New England states where the negroes were in 1890 over 2 per cent. of the population.

The Palace hotel in San Francisco is said to be absolutely safe in any earthquake. It is built of iron and has inner and outer walls separated by a wall thirty-five feet wide and connected by hundreds of iron braces.

### CHATS ABOUT MEN.

Rider Haggard thinks Egypt the most interesting and the least explored country in the world.

The writings of Mr. Gladstone fill twenty-two pages of the British museum printed catalogue.

Dr. James McCosh, late president of Princeton college, is now engaged in completing his literary works.

James Whitcomb Riley has found lecturing so remunerative that he does hardly any literary work now.

Madison Cawein, well known as one of the promising younger American poets, is an accountant in a business house at Louisville.

General Longstreet is writing a book of war tales in which he himself prominently figures. It will be entitled "A Soldier Under Two Flags."

One of the sights of the Bois de Boulogne in Paris is the spectacle of the English ambassador, Lord Dufferin, on his bicycle, accompanied by his son and an escort of attaches of the embassy.

General Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, upon whom fortune has smiled but charily since the war, has recently acquired an interest in a Mexican silver mine that promises rich developments.

General Gallifet is the most popular military personage in France. He commanded a battalion of the Versailles army during the Commune, and it is said to be owing to his energy that the insurrection was put down.

Dr. Gunsaulus, of Chicago, is the owner of the famous portrait of Robert Browning painted by Moscheles. It was the most satisfactory portrait ever made of the poet, not only to his family and friends, but also to Mr. Browning himself.

### BEHIND THE SCENES.

Mme. Lehmann says that her doctors will not allow her to sing in opera at all next season.

Ann Hathaway's cottage has become the property of the English nation. The price paid was £3,000.

Ada Melrose declares that she has never missed or delayed a performance for any reason during her entire career on the stage.

Arthur Wallack, one of the sons of the late Lester Wallack, contemplates a short tour in three light comedies once in his father's repertory.

It is said that there are not 100 actors and actresses worth \$100,000. Joseph Jefferson and Joseph Murphy are the richest actors. Lotta is the richest actress.

Mary Anderson continues to enjoy absolute ease and quiet at her picturesque home in Tunbridge Wells, Engl. There has been a revival of the rumor that she contemplates returning to the stage.

Sybil Johnstone, who achieved what some considered unenviable notoriety by appearing on the stage as the scantily draped model in the "Clemenceau Case," says that next year she will star in Shakespearean drama.

William B. Hincks and Benjamin Fish, executors of the estate of P. T. Barnum, have filed in the probate court, Bridgeport, an account of the first year of their stewardship. The estate shows a gain in value of nearly \$200,000. When they assumed charge its total value, according to the inventory, was \$4,279,332.

### TURF TOPICS.

The fastest mile run over the Memphis track was 1:42½, by Ethel, during the late meeting.

Hal Pointer and Direct will meet at Washington park during the Northwestern Breeders' meeting.

Buffalo Girl, 2:12½, and Direct have been mated. The foal will have an average speed inheritance of 2:09½.

A. V. Pantlind, 2:20, by Hamlet, was sold the other day for \$160. He was speedy in his day, but a little faint hearted.

Governor Flower, of New York, has signed the bill to make it a criminal offense to tap the telegraph and telephone wires. This is a safeguard to the city poolrooms.

Charley Patterson, the driver of Twist and other well known Kentucky trotters, has become a knight of the pig-skin, and will hereafter try his fortunes with the gallopers.

Conqueror, the horse that trotted 100 miles in the year 1853 in 8 hours, 55 minutes and 53 seconds, was sired by a son of Imp. Bellfounder, and out of a mare by the same horse.

Senator Stanford, of California, has three horses that he could probably sell for \$300,000, and could dispose of another \$400,000 worth and scarcely miss them off the ranch and then have \$1,000,000 worth left.

### AROUND THE THRONE.

The queen of Portugal invariably sits by her husband while he does all his work.

The oldest reigning sovereign is Christian IX, king of Denmark. He is seventy-three years of age and has reigned twenty-eight years. Queen Victoria is the next oldest.

In many princely German families every male who is born is christened by the hereditary name. The result of this peculiar custom may be illustrated by the fact that in the reigning house of Reuss the Henrys run up to Henry LXIX.

It may not be generally known that it was to the Empress Eugenie that Mlle. Bonheur owed almost the first recognition of her talents, and it was from the empress's hand that the artist received her highly prized decoration of the Legion of Honor.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is little renowned for anything save his huge collection of dressing gowns. He has a perfect mania for this kind of useful garment, and has paid as much as 100 guineas for an embroidered robe made up for him in Paris.

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